

*Jane*

22, *White, F*

1. What culture, ethnicity, and/or race do you identify with?

Appearance-wise, I am white. Although I consider my type of white the excessively pale variety that does not really tan. Technically, I am  $\frac{1}{4}$  Italian and  $\frac{3}{4}$  German. I know nothing about Italian culture. I identify most with Pennsylvania Dutch culture. (Pennsylvania Dutch are actually Germans. A long time ago, English speaking people thought “Deutsch” was Dutch.)

2. How do your culture, ethnicity, and/or race impact your day-to-day life?

It does not impact my daily life because it is highly influenced by who I am around. When I am around Penn State people, I slightly monitor how I speak because Pennsylvania Dutch people from York County, PA have strange grammar. When I am around my family, my grammar gets really bad. I also talk somewhat differently around my boyfriend because he is used to all of my Pennsylvania Dutch terms – “fress, all (without the gone), awhile (meaning now), hog maw” etc. I get really excited when I talk about food, probably because food is a big deal to my family. (And don’t argue with me about chicken pot pie, because it does not have a crust.)

3. Have you ever had a moment when you were “jammed” by someone’s presumption of your cultural/ethnic/racial background? If so, can you describe what happened and how it made you feel?

When I say “awhile,” I mean I am doing something now. For example, “I am going to eat awhile.” means “I am going to eat now.” When I first came to [university], I would text this

to people. They in turn would get very confused and think I was going to eat “in a while.” It really wasn’t that big of a deal to me, I just missed out on some extra friends for dinner. However, I definitely have to watch how I speak when I’m not in York County. At first I had to think about this, but now I just talk differently when I am in [university’s town].

4. How do you think your cultural/ethnic/racial identity will or will not impact your teaching?

I am really interested in family history, which I think results from being extremely close to my maternal grandparents. My grandma makes delicious Pennsylvania Dutch food, and I am over at my grandparents’ house a lot when I am home. Most recently in my artwork I have been exploring my family history in the handmade books I create. I think it is really important for students to know where they came from and appreciate that, so I will likely develop art lessons about this at some point in my career.